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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of every age, Your people have always turned to You, especially in their darkest hours of need. Today we call upon Your Holy Name and pray for world peace. Only by mounting the forces of prayer, goodness, and compassionate love can we overcome the hopeless battles of distrust and violence.

When human limitations are finally admitted and nations stand apart from each other, each on its own precipice of disastrous decisions, then the remnant of Your believing people must assemble and cry out to You, O Lord, for wisdom and consolation.

Because repeated conflicts and broad-based negativity can form a vortex which, like a giant vacuum, robs people everywhere of strength and initiative, Your faithful must believe in You and claim a vision of realistic reconciliation which transcends the frontiers of culture, civilizations, nations and history.

Before You and in You we are already one people, and You have promised to be with us now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DELAURO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3741. An act to provide funding authority to facilitate the evacuation of persons from Lebanon, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 250) "An Act to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to improve the Act."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to ten 1-minute speeches on each side.

BORDER SECURITY, "DO-NOTHING" DEMOCRATS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are working hard to produce a strong security bill to send to President Bush's desk, while Democrats continue their tired strategy of voting against border security legislation, while failing to offer a plan of their own.

Republicans passed the REAL ID Act which made it more difficult for potential terrorists to obtain driver's licenses, and helped deport criminals for terrorism related offenses. 152 House Democrats voted against it.

The Republicans passed the Border Protection, Anti-terrorism and Illegal Immigration Control Act which in-

creased border security by authorizing 1,000 new border inspectors and ended the "catch and release" of illegal aliens. 164 House Democrats voted against that.

Finally, 187 Democrats voted against an amendment which would have added teeth to a Federal law that requires governments at all levels to comply with Federal immigration laws.

Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to the other side of the aisle complain about the "do-nothing Congress." It is actually a case of the "do-nothing" Democrats. Republicans have a strong record of accomplishment on border security. Too bad the Democrats can't say the same thing.

BREAST CANCER PATIENT PROTECTION

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of every woman who has ever had to leave the hospital within 24 hours after undergoing a mastectomy, and to urge that the House consider the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act. It is a bipartisan bill which will ensure that patients have the health care that they need following breast cancer surgery.

The statistics say it all. A woman in the United States has a 1-in-7 chance of developing breast cancer. It is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for women in America. And just this year, over 269,000 women will receive a diagnosis of invasive breast cancer.

Despite these numbers, women are often forced by their insurance companies to leave the hospital less than a day after mastectomy surgery, when they are still in pain, groggy from anesthesia, and with drainage tubes that require professional attention.

Mr. Speaker, the last thing that any woman should be doing at this time is

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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fighting with her insurance company. Two days of recovery time in the hospital should not be negotiable. Just 2 days. And ultimately that decision should be up to the patient and her doctor.

We should pass into law the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act to ensure that women do not have to fight for their recovery time in the hospital.

LONE STAR VOICES—TIM AND SUSAN JACOB

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, illegal entry into our homeland negatively affects our economic security. Illegals are driving up the costs for health care, education, Social Security and other Social Services. Americans pick up the tab for these bills because illegals do not pay their way.

Tim and Susan Jacob of Groves, Texas speak out on this fact. They say, "It should be evident more than ever that the U.S. does not have the infrastructure for 12 to 20 million illegals. This summer we are seeing rolling blackouts, complete power outages, gasoline above \$3 a gallon, Houston streets are overloaded with automobiles and illegals driving without insurance. We have hospital closings and poor performance of the public school system. Shut down the borders, enforce the existing laws and prosecute employers who hire illegals."

Mr. Speaker, common sense rings true again. We cannot ignore the negative impact of illegal entry. It is morally wrong to make Americans pay the costs for foreigners illegally in our Nation.

And that's just the way it is.

RIISING GAS PRICES HURT MINIMUM WAGE EARNERS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, gas prices in this country have just risen to hit yet another record high, reminding us all of how difficult it can be to make ends meet today. This is especially true for the millions of Americans who are struggling to survive and support their families while making the minimum wage.

Although it has not been increased since 1997, and it is currently at its lowest level in 50 years when adjusted for inflation, Republicans still refuse to raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour. That means if you make \$5.15 an hour and you work all year round, you would make \$10,700. In fact, it would take you a full day just to fill up your gas tank. With the kind of money you make on minimum wage, there is very little left to support a household, something three-quarters of the people who make minimum wage must do.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats believe that no one who works hard at a full-time job should be in poverty. It is time to raise the minimum wage. Congress should not go on vacation without giving these workers their first pay raise in 9 years.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICE OF PFC DEREK PLOWMAN

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the sacrifice made by PFC Derek Plowman of Everton, Arkansas. On July 20 he died from a gunshot wound while serving with the Arkansas Army National Guard's 142nd Fires Brigade in Iraq.

Friends and family say that Derek was passionate about everything that he did. He was known to be a selfless man that was always more worried about other people than himself.

Last year he had just returned from basic training when he learned that his unit was being mobilized, but he commented that "he had a job to do," and willingly deployed to Iraq with his fellow Arkansans.

Derek comes from a large family with nine brothers and sisters. He had dreams of becoming a psychiatrist, and joined the National Guard during his senior year at Valley Springs High School to earn money for college.

Mr. Speaker, at the young age of 20, Derek made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He is a true American hero. I ask my colleagues to keep Derek's family in their thoughts and prayers as they mourn the loss of this outstanding young man.

OIL COMPANY PROFITS

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, Mr. Speaker, the numbers are in. ExxonMobil's quarterly profits up 32 percent, Shell, 34 percent, BP, 29 percent. The three largest oil companies made \$200 million a day profit by gouging consumers. This is extraordinary, and the Republicans have very little to say about this because they are sharing in the profits. Eighty-five percent of the political contributions from oil and gas companies go to the Republican party.

Now, they are so awash in money that the retired CEO of ExxonMobil, while Americans struggle to fill up their gas tanks and afford that and go on vacation, well, Lee Raymond, the retired ExxonMobil chief who got \$400 million for a retirement gift very recently, he is personally buying oil and gas fields. So American workers, people who work for ExxonMobil, can't afford to go on vacation and fill up their tank, and their CEO is personally purchasing oil and gas fields in the Middle East and Africa. It's a great country.

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BREAST CANCER PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with several of my colleagues, this morning to urge this House to pass a bill I am sponsoring called the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act. I appreciate the co-leadership of the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) on this important bipartisan bill.

We are here today seeking to improve treatment coverages and access to inpatient care for women suffering from breast cancer. No woman should be forced to fight breast cancer and red tape at the same time. It is our responsibility in Congress to make sure that necessary laws are in place to protect a breast cancer patient. We need to guarantee the best treatment and support possible.

A breast cancer diagnosis is scary and stressful for a woman. Insurance restrictions and difficult cost-saving decisions only complicate her fear and stress.

By passing our bill, we can eliminate undue anxiety and ensure that a woman and her doctor are in control of her treatment decisions. More than 175 cosponsors of our bill have recognized the need to help more than 200,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer every year. But we believe every Member of this body should be cosponsoring our legislation.

Together, this Congress can make a positive difference in the lives of women suffering from breast cancer by passing the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BREAST CANCER PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act and urge its passage before the August recess.

Breast cancer is so pervasive that it touches every American family. The diagnosis of breast cancer is frightening enough not to have to fight the insurance companies, as has been said before. One in eight women is going to be diagnosed with breast cancer during her lifetime, and it remains the number one cause of death in women between the ages of 30 and 54.

In my congressional district, there are almost 1,500 instances of breast cancer and nearly 300 women die every year. And rushing a woman through a hospital stay after a mastectomy and pressuring her to return to her normal life almost immediately hampers her recovery. That is why it is imperative